

Amendment and Response
Applicant: Andrew H. Barr et al.
Serial No.: 10/714,302
Filed: Nov. 14, 2003
Docket No.: 200308580-1/H300.216.101
Title: SYSTEM AND METHOD FOR TESTING A MEMORY USING DMA

REMARKS

The following remarks are made in response to the Office Action mailed April 10, 2007. Claims 1-10 and 15-20 were rejected. Claims 11-14 are objected to. With this Response, claims 1, 6, 9, 15, and 19 have been amended. Claims 1-20 remain pending in the application and are presented for reconsideration and allowance.

Claim Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 1-5 and 8 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,002,868 (Jenkins).

Claim 1 recites, *inter alia*, “wherein the test module is configured to provide test transactions to the first I/O controller to cause tests to be performed on the memory using the first bus.”

Jenkins teaches a “hard disk drive 124” that contains a “diagnostic application 150”. *See, e.g.*, column 3, line 67 to column 4, line 2 and Figure 1. Jenkins also teaches:

One known factory tool is Compaq Diagnostics for DOS (disk operating system). This tool provides a suite of tests which can be run on the personal computer to test a variety of devices, such as memory, hard disks, floppy disks and serial ports. A specific module is provided to test each device. Column 1, lines 27-32

By teaching that “the suite of tests ... can be run on the personal computer”, col. 1, lines 28-29, Jenkins teaches away from the above feature of claim 1 by teaching or suggesting that the suite of tests (i.e., diagnostic application 150) is executed by the processor (i.e., processor 100) of the personal computer. Accordingly, diagnostic application 150 is not “configured to provide test transactions to the first I/O controller to cause tests to be performed on the memory using the first bus” as recited in claim 1.

Applicants respectfully request the withdrawal of the rejection of claim 1, and claims 2-5 and 8 which depend from claim 1, under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) for at least this reason.

Claim Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 6-7, 9-10, and 15-20 are rejected under U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Jenkins in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,619,513 (Shaffer).

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With regard to claims 6-7 which depend from claim 1, Applicants respectfully submit that Shaffer does not teach or suggest the features of claim 1 that are not taught or suggested by Jenkins as described above. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request the withdrawal of the rejection of claims 6-7 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) for at least this reason.

In addition, Jenkins and Shaffer may not properly be combined to support a rejection of claim 7 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) because the combination would change the principle of operation of Jenkins. See MPEP §2143.01(VI). In order for diagnostic application 150 of Jenkins to use “direct memory access (DMA) transactions” as recited in claim 7, diagnostic application 150 would need to be executed from a device that uses DMA to access main memory 108 such as peripheral controller 40 of Shaffer. As noted above, however, Jenkins teaches or suggests that diagnostic application 150 is executable by processor 100. Accordingly, the combination of Shaffer with Jenkins would change the principle of operation of Jenkins. Applicants respectfully request the withdrawal of the rejection of claim 7 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) for at least this additional reason.

Applicants respectfully request the withdrawal of the rejection of independent claim 9, and claim 10 which depends from claim 9, and independent claim 15, and claims 16-20 which depends from claim 15, under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) for at least this additional reason.

Objection to the Claims

Claims 11-14 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Applicants respectfully appreciate this indication of allowance. Applicants respectfully submit, however, that the parent claim of claims 11-14 are also allowable as described above.

CONCLUSION

In view of the above, Applicant respectfully submits that pending claims 1-20 are in form for allowance and are not taught or suggested by the cited references. Therefore,

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reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections and allowance of claims 1-20 is respectfully requested.

The Examiner is invited to contact the Applicant's representative at the below-listed telephone numbers to facilitate prosecution of this application.

Any inquiry regarding this Amendment and Response should be directed to either David A. Plettner at Telephone No. (408) 447-3013, Facsimile No. (408) 447-0854 or Christopher P. Kosh at Telephone No. (512) 241-2403, Facsimile No. (512) 241-2409. In addition, all correspondence should continue to be directed to the following address:

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Respectfully submitted,

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